



**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/723,456  
Applicant : Paul R. Sharps et al.  
Filed : November 26, 2003  
Art Unit : 1753  
Examiner : Unknown

Docket No. : 1002  
Customer No. : 041170

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the following amendment prior to examination:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.